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FEDERAL OFFICES PRESENT PUZZLE

Policy of Administration in Matters of Appointment Entirely in Doubt.

WATSON TALKS OF SITUATION

New Congressman Desires Place on Post-Office Committee. Gossip of Washington.

Much interesting gossip about affairs in Washington, which at this juncture possess more absorbing interest than anything else, and about which there is more uncertainty than has ever before existed, was brought to the city last night by Congressman Walter A. Watson, of the Fourth Virginia District. As one of the new members of the House, he had an insight into the beginnings of a new Congress, while attending the inauguration and the House Democratic caucus last week.

Discussing what Senator Tillman so graphically describes as the rush of wild asses for green corn, Congressman Watson—it is difficult not to write of him as "Judge"—has the same information that everybody else in Washington has, including lawmakers, statesmen, politicians and reporters. It is absolutely nothing. It may be regarded as a physical impossibility for the President to make all local appointments without the help of referees, so that the naming of presidential appointees must necessarily come through the representatives in Congress.

But when it comes to offices in connection with the Federal courts and the collection of internal revenue, nobody knows how nor when nor where the appointee will be selected.

Will Serve Out Terms.

It seems certain now that Republican postmasters will be retained until the expiration of their four-year term, except in case of bad service or charges of improper conduct. This means that wholesale changes will not be made, but that appointments must await the end of existing terms. There are eighteen presidential post-offices in Judge Watson's district. In four of these the terms have expired. In four years the terms have expired in four years to run. The remainder will be rotated over the next two years. Judge Watson is in luck in that there is no possibility of his being ousted.

He thinks the idea that President Wilson had a part in the defeat of Senator Martin for re-election as chairman of the Senate Democratic caucus has been abandoned in Washington. Nor is it the impression that Mr. Bryan took a hand.

Delegations from Virginia were in Washington a few days ago urging the appointment of a former Lieutenant Governor Joseph E. William as diplomatic post. The name of Dr. Thomas Nelson Pace has been suggested for an important mission to a foreign country, although it is now evident that he will not go to the court of St. James.

Virginia's Change Place.

Changes in House committee assignments of Virginians will be necessary as a result of the rule adopted in caucus, providing that membership on any one of twelve stated committees, regarded as the most important, precedes a place on any other committee. By the operation of this rule, Mr. Flood must give up the Committee on Territories, Mr. Glass, Public Buildings and Grounds, and Mr. Carlin, Coinage, Weights and Measures, Agriculture, and Commerce. These members are, respectively, on Foreign Affairs, of which Mr. Flood is to be chairman; Banking and Currency, of which Mr. Glass is to be chairman, and Judiciary, which contains Mr. Carlin.

Judge Watson's name is before the Ways and Means Committee for a place on the Committee on Post-Office and Post-Roads, and it is one of the twelve important ones. This would not get another committee assignment. Congressman A. J. Montague is being considered for membership on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

If there is a reference for Virginia appointments, nobody seems to know it, nor does anybody credit a rumor to that effect. Everybody thinks Mr. Wilson will be his own referee.

INSURANCE POLICY ONLY THING SAVED

Abdalla Grabbed It When He Fled With Family From Blazing Home.

ALL HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Gasolene, in Grocer's Stock, Exploded, When Fire Was Raging.

George Abdalla, his wife and fourteen-months-old child had a narrow escape from death last night, when Abdalla's grocery store, 1903 West Cary Street, over which they lived, caught fire. The blaze was discovered by citizens about 10:20 o'clock, and they forced open the front door and assisted Abdalla and his wife and child to the street. They were asleep at the time.

As soon as the fire was discovered an alarm was turned in from box 516, at Main and Meadow Streets, and Engine Companies Nos. 10 and 12, and No. 3 truck, in charge of Assistant Chief Wise, responded. The water pressure was low, and the firemen had difficulty in getting a stream on the burning building, which allowed the fire to get considerable headway. It was nearly an hour before the blaze was finally extinguished. Both store and stock were badly damaged, entailing a loss of about \$1,500, covered by \$1,000 insurance.

Insurance Policy.

Just how the fire started could not be learned. Gasolene, which was included in the stock, exploded, and in an instant the entire lower floor was ablaze. It was at this point that the fire was discovered by several persons who were passing. They broke down the front door and aroused Abdalla and his wife. As the former rushed from the store he grabbed his insurance policy, which was in a desk, and this was practically the only thing saved.

The building was so badly damaged that it was impossible for the grocer and his family to stay in it. He and his wife and child were provided by neighbors with clothing, having been forced out in their night clothes. They were also given shelter.

The building, a frame structure, was owned by Michael Abdalla, a brother of the grocer. It was so badly damaged that it will have to be rebuilt.

Chief Wise, while fighting the flames, was badly shocked when he came in contact with an electric wire.

BIG BOND ISSUE FOR CREEK WORK

Shockoe Creek, Ninth Street Bridge and New Schools to Be Provided For.

GRUNDY TELLS OF PLANS

Opposes Street Bonds, as Improvements Wear Out Before Debt Is Paid.

That funds will be provided for the walling in of Shockoe Creek, for a new Ninth Street Free Bridge, and for other public improvements during this year, was definitely announced on the floor of the Board of Aldermen by Chairman Barton H. Grundy, of the Council Committee on Finance, last night. For such permanent improvements, the Finance Committee will propose an issue of bonds, probably about July 1. Improvement of streets, the Finance Committee holds, must be provided for out of current funds, as where bonds are issued for street work, the improvements wear out before the bonds mature. The matter came up on a general recommendation of the Administrative Board to the Board of Aldermen, and was authorized for the improvement of streets and Shockoe Creek. The action, after debate, was to send the paper back to the Administrative Board with instructions to have prepared proper plans for Shockoe Creek, showing just what is proposed to be accomplished.

Tells Plans of Finance Committee.

This recommendation has somewhat forced the hand of the Finance Committee, Chairman Grundy. "For some time the Finance Committee has had this matter under consideration," he said. "It was discussed by us before the annual budget was prepared, and during the past month we have been holding public hearings, studying the best method of procedure. We agree on the urgency of the Shockoe Creek work, and have practically assured the Administrative Board that not less than \$250,000 will be provided for that purpose during this year. After a careful review of the financial situation, and of the market for bonds, we have reached the conclusion that a bond issue is not the thing for street improvements. We contemplate, at present, reporting to the Council about July 1 a plan for an issue of bonds—probably \$1,000,000 to \$1,250,000—on the basis of the plan of the walling in of this creek, the new Ninth Street bridge, some school buildings now urgently needed and other improvements of a permanent value."

Distribution of Cost.

"It is proper, we think, that the cost of improvements of this character be distributed over a period of years by means of a bond issue with a sinking fund. Expenditure of funds from a bond issue for street improvements adds nothing to the city's actual property, and salable assets, and we find that the experience of other cities which have tried it is that the streets wear out before the bonds mature. The Administrative Board has no right to say that it can possibly spend for some months to come on streets, and if conditions are favorable, we hope to be in a position to report by midsummer a plan providing the funds needed for permanent improvements, without encumbering the city's credit. Such improvements as add to our assets as a municipal corporation are proper subjects for a bond issue, we think, and the general fund must be made to provide for current expenditures and improvements of a more or less temporary character."

Wants Plans and Estimates.

When the report of the Administrative Board, proposing a \$1,000,000 bond issue, was presented, Mr. Powers objected that it was not accompanied by any report or estimate showing the character of improvement contemplated, either as to streets or as to Shockoe Creek. The walling in of the creek he regarded as of great importance, and as soon as a businesslike plan is presented, showing what is proposed to be accomplished, and what it will cost, he pledged his support. The paper presented by the Administrative Board did not indicate whether the creek was to be merely straightened between walls, whether a proper invert was to be constructed at the bottom, or whether it was to be arched over. On motion of Mr. Powers, the resolution was sent back to the Administrative Board with instructions to report plans and estimates for improvement of the creek, showing exactly what is to be accomplished and what it will cost.

Contemplation of Bond Issue.

It was explained after the meeting that the Finance Committee has for some months contemplated an improvement bond issue, and, in fact, had been known as the "bond issue," providing for the purchase of school sites and for a new market building, provided that the general fund should be reimbursed by the total of those items as such a bond issue may be sold. The bond issue will be for permanent improvements only, and will be without immediate bearing on the problem of raising a larger annual revenue for such a system of local government. Whether this problem can best be met by an increase of two and one-half mills in the general tax rate, as members of the Finance Committee proposed by a system of local assessments for street improvements, is in vogue with many cities, or by a system of rigid economy and the reduction of the number of city employees, is yet to be determined.

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GIRL BIDS LOVER FINAL FAREWELL

Miss Wissler Leaves for Home. Talk of Appeal to Federal Court Revived.

After saying a last good-by to Claude Swanson Allen, whose bride she would have been but for the Hillsville tragedy, Miss Nellie Wissler left the city last night for her home at Pulaski, Ky. It is not probable that she will ever see him again, but will remain at home until after the execution, on March 28.

The final scene between the two was most affecting. The youth bore himself bravely, cheering the girl at moments when she faltered. There was no demonstration of affection—only a farewell handshake. She went to the penitentiary twice yesterday, leaving for the last time at about 5 o'clock.

Both prisoners maintain fair composure, although Floyd Allen is much more affected over the outlook than is his son. His condition at times has been distressing.

Claude Allen has in mind the possibility of writing a letter to the Governor, containing his view on some things said by the executive in his statement to the public denying commutation. He has not yet done so. He wrote a letter a month ago, in reference to a suggestion that he should confess and ask for mercy, saying that he had nothing to confess and that he had told the truth. This letter was withheld with the papers in the case.

Talk was revived yesterday of an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, on the plea that Claude Allen has been twice placed in jeopardy for the same offense, which would be a violation of the Constitution. Attorneys for the defense announced last November that this would be done at once, but it was abandoned.

Louis E. Wendenburg, of this city, may be assigned to the case, and he contemplates prosecution of Dexter Good for perjury. Friends of the Allen's insist that this proceeding is really in good faith, although eight months have elapsed since the alleged offense occurred.

MEETS DEATH IN FREIGHT YARDS

Engineer Clarence E. Knight, of Seaboard Air Line, Instantly Killed.

Horribly crushed and mangled, the lifeless body of Clarence E. Knight, a locomotive engineer, twenty-seven years old, of Raleigh, N. C., was found last night in the local freight yards of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, near the intersection of Hermitage Road and Dinwiddie Street. His skull was crushed in and one foot severed. Death had been instantaneous.

The body was discovered by Mounted Officers Krug and Allen, of Second District. They at once notified headquarters, and Dr. J. Fulmer Bright, corner of Henrico County, was summoned. After an examination of the body, Dr. Bright ordered it removed to Bennett's undertaking establishment, where an inquest will be held this afternoon at 5 o'clock. The crew of the yard engine and other employees of the company have been summoned to appear.

Knight was an engineer on the road, running between this city and Raleigh. He arrived here yesterday, and was made his office at the roundhouse on Hermitage Road. It is thought that he was coming into the city when he met his death, and in attempting to board the shifter, missed his footing and slipped beneath the wheels. This theory was borne out by an examination of the engine, which disclosed blood and particles of flesh on the rear end. Neither the engineer nor the engine was aware of the accident.

Knight had been employed by the Seaboard Air Line for six years. He was before that time a fireman on the Chesapeake and Ohio. His home is in Raleigh, where he lived with his mother and several smaller brothers and sisters. The family was notified of his death, and the body will be held awaiting advice.

BOYS ARRESTED

Alleged to Be Guilty of Stealing Pigeons in the West End.

Two boys, Henry and eleven years old, of 1913 Taylor Street, and Thomas Martin, thirteen, of 2122 West Cary Street, were arrested last night by Policemen Samuels and Bryant on the charge of stealing pigeons from numerous residents in the West End. According to the officers, the boys are guilty of thefts which have lately caused numerous complaints to the police, but it was asserted that they have been alone, and other arrests were promised.

Twenty-nine birds, which the youngsters are accused of selling to Leslie Cash, of 502 Louisiana Street, Fulton, were confiscated by Samuels and Bryant, and will be used as evidence against the youthful prisoners when they are arraigned in the juvenile court.

Who owns the pigeons now in the possession of the police is not known, but in this way every man in the city, Thurston and Martin are now being held in the Juvenile Detention Home as suspicious characters.

SHOCKED BY 1,300 VOLTS

Machine Is Burned About Sculp and Hand While at Work.

L. S. Stoen, twenty-eight years old, a machinist, was shocked and slightly burned yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock while at work at the Virginia Railway and Power Company. It was said that he was at first shocked by 1,300 volts, and it was at first thought that he was dead, but he was only slightly injured.

Stoen, who recently came here from Anderson, S. C., was at work on a machine when he was in contact with a live wire. He was knocked to the floor and was unconscious when picked up by fellow workers. He was rushed to the hospital, and on examination showed that he was slightly burned about the hand and scalp. A speedy recovery was predicted.

THOSE NEW NICKELS

There has been so much interest evinced in this late issue that to furnish our friends and customers we have requested the Philadelphia Mint to make us a second shipment. We hope in a few days to announce their arrival in this space. In the history of the United States Mint there have been many interesting stories incident to the coinage of the various denominations and issues of new money. However, YOU can make THAT COIN IN YOUR POCKET TO-DAY of more personal importance to YOU than any rare coin in the world. Let IT be the foundation of YOUR BANK ACCOUNT in the

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of Richmond, Virginia.

Build on THAT for SECURITY AND SERVICE.

HONOR GUESTS FOR COMING REUNION

List of Men to Be Entertained by Constitutional Convention Survivors Made Public.

Guests of honor at the second reunion of survivors of the Virginia Constitutional Convention, which will be held at the Jefferson Hotel on Friday night, will be, according to announcement made yesterday, as follows: William Hodges Mann, Governor of Virginia; J. Taylor Elyson, Lieutenant Governor; Richard Evelyn Byrd, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Samuel W. Williams, Attorney General; George Ainslie, Mayor of Richmond; B. O. James, Secretary of the Commonwealth; Asher W. Harman, State Treasurer; R. C. Stearns, Superintendent of Public Instruction; C. Lee Moore, Auditor of Public Accounts; Roosevelt Page, Second Auditor; George W. Koerner, Commissioner of Agriculture; Judges James Keith, Richard H. Cardwell, John A. Buchanan, George M. Harrison and Stafford G. Whittle, of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia; Judges R. R. Prentiss, William F. Rhea and Richard Wingfield and Clerk R. T. Wilson, of the State Corporation Commission; Judges Nathan Goff and Jeter C. Pritchard, of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals; Judge Edmund V. Riddle, Jr., of the United States District Court; Judge H. Carter Scott, of the Circuit Court of the city of Richmond; Judge Beverly T. Crump, of the Law and Equity Court; Judge William A. Monroe, of the Chancery Court; Judge J. C. Richardson, of the District Court; Judge Ernest H. Wells, of Hastings Court, Part II, and two representatives of each Richmond daily newspaper.

The matter of invitations, because of many that would be welcomed and because of the necessary limit, has been one difficult to adjust. The committee on invitations is composed of Charles V. Meredith and Allen Caperton Braxton.

The business meeting of the association will be held at 4 o'clock Friday afternoon in Room 620 at the Jefferson Hotel. It will be attended by the survivors, who will be given the opportunity to be present, and tickets will be given to members for their own guests, each being entitled to invite one other person. Tickets to the guests of honor, on the other hand, will be mailed to the city addresses of the recipients.

Henry C. Stuart, president of the association, will act as toastmaster. Speakers will include the Governor, John Stewart Bryan, Congressman Walter A. Watson and H. D. Flood, John Strode, Harbour, Judge D. Tucker Brooke and John Garland Pollard.

Verdict for Defendant.

In the case of H. P. Mackin against J. P. Rader, tried yesterday in the City Circuit Court, the jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

SPEECH TO JURY BASIS OF APPEAL

Prosecutor Referred to "Kansas Thieves"—Claim Jurymen Was Once Insane.

Because the attorney for the Commonwealth in Norfolk, in his speech to the jury prosecuting a sailor in a charge of larceny, said that in the old days of the navy there were "no Kansas farmer thieves" to make trouble, a writ of error was asked of the Supreme Court in behalf of the jacks who were convicted. It was, however, refused, and the sailor, F. W. George, by name, formerly a Kansas farmer, must serve his term. He was accused of stealing \$250 in cash, with clothing and jewelry, belonging to G. Bayard, a noncommissioned officer of the same service. The two went to Norfolk aboard the Palmetto, of the navy, and roomed together while spending a night ashore.

The Supreme Court also refused a writ of error to John Tyne, also of Norfolk, who was given two years in the penitentiary on a charge of malicious wounding.

It is charged that John P. Kevell, one of the jurors in the Tyne case, had previously been confined as an insane person, but was later discharged. The verdict, which he had a part in rendering, was attacked on this ground, though unsuccessfully. It was further urged as a point that Tyne was without counsel.

Howitzer's Inspection Completed.

The annual Federal inspection of the property of the Richmond Howitzer Company, completed yesterday by Captain Bossieux, U. S. A., inspector-instructor with the Virginia field artillery. He was assisted in the day's work by First Lieutenant T. Croxton Gordon, quartermaster of the battalion.

Captain Bossieux left last evening for Norfolk, accompanied by Captain W. M. Myers, of the Howitzers. They will stay and tomorrow inspect the Norfolk Light Artillery Co.

McKay Dismissed.

A Gordon McKay, who was arrested Monday on the charge of passing a worthless check for \$10.25 on the Chesterfield Motor Car Company, was dismissed yesterday morning in Police Court.

MAN NOT IN CUSTODY

Prisoner Wanted in Virginia Already Turned Over to Authorities.

Much interest was taken in the case of a man wanted in Virginia brought to this city by a message received by Governor James A. Campbell from the Attorney General of Virginia, asking that J. V. Compton, an American citizen, be held for extradition on the charge of larceny. The man, it was stated, had been arrested in this city, and the Governor of Virginia requested that action be prompt, since the authorities in that State had been asking him to hold Compton. The reply was to the effect that the man, if he had been arrested, had been turned over to the authorities in that State, where he was wanted on a charge of larceny at Salisbury.

SOUTH VIRGINIA DOCTORS CONVENTION

Richmond Honorary Members Entertain Medical Association Here.

The Southern Virginia Medical Association held its quarterly meeting in the auditorium of the University College of Medicine in two sessions yesterday afternoon and last night. Dr. C. E. Martin, of Emporia, second vice-president, presided in the absence of the president, Dr. Bernard Barrow, of Barrow's Store.

The question of the place for the next meeting was taken up at the evening session, and Petersburg was selected. The association will meet there the second Thursday in June.

The association convened at Richmond, which is outside its territory, at the invitation of honorary members in this city, who entertained the visitors at 1 o'clock at the Commonwealth Club. After the evening session a reception was given them at the Westmoreland Club.

Those who read papers at the afternoon session were: Dr. W. H. Lewis, Lawrenceville; Dr. T. C. Harris, Kenbridge; Dr. E. H. Terrell, Richmond; Dr. John G. Reimley, Petersburg; Dr. J. Shelton Hordley, Richmond; Dr. R. Shands, Washington, D. C.; Dr. J. E. Rawls, Suffolk, and Dr. W. Wallace Gill, Richmond.

The night session was combined with that of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery, and was well attended. Routine business of the association was transacted, and papers were read by Dr. Southgate Leigh, Norfolk; Dr. J. Allison Hodges, Lexington, and Dr. T. W. Murrell, Richmond.

TO ADDRESS WOMEN

Dr. Chandler Next Speaker Before Equal Suffrage League.

Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, of the Equal Suffrage League of Richmond, will speak Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in headquarters, 500 East Broad Street, on "Education," a subject in which the community, asked to be present, is deeply interested.

The Fulton suffrage meeting in Nelson's Hall Saturday night, arranged by Mrs. E. L. Johnson, proved a gratifying success. Mrs. Valentine and Miss Johnston were introduced by Mrs. C. Duke, and many names of both men and women were added to the suffrage membership in Richmond. Another meeting will be soon held in Fulton by request.

Mrs. Valentine spoke Monday at Prince George Church, and on going by automobile from Petersburg with Miss Julia Sully, Miss Della Cameron, Miss Rosa Heath, Mrs. McArthur, Miss Menard, Miss Webb, Miss Pettit, Miss Green, Mr. and Mrs. George Harlow, and others, Mrs. Valentine's address was delivered to a large audience with the usual big results in new members, and with Prince George at an early date.

Pine Street Baptist Revival.

The revival at Pine Street Baptist Church continues with increasing interest. There have been many conversions, and there have been many conversions. W. W. Hamilton, the pastor-evangelist, has been preaching with a powerful and pungent sermon, holding the congregation with unwavering interest in every week.

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